

LET THE BULLIES BEWARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would take this opportunity during a special order break in the legislative business of the House, because we will have an important vote here at some point today to continue the Government, since tomorrow is the shutdown date, to discuss the abuse of the word "bully" in the press over the last few months, an absolute bass-ackwards concept of what bullying is.

When President Lyndon Baines Johnson used the IRS and the FBI to intimidate people, it was considered bullying in the extreme and you would even occasionally see, in conservative and liberal circles, the use of the word "fascism," as in police state tactics. When President Nixon corrupted the Central Intelligence Agency, a body formed to gather intelligence only outside the boundaries of the 50 United States and its territories, you saw much comment using the word "fascism."

But when the current occupants of the White House corrupt the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a way to intimidate and attempt to destroy the lives of the seven people in the travel office, to procure government contracts for Hollywood cronies and/or second cousins who are just 23 years old to run an office that had a bipartisan and press approval rating through 4 or 5 or 6 Presidents, that is bullying in the extreme.

That is bullying, and Billy Dale, the senior member of the travel office, who got a standing ovation last night at the largest political fundraiser in the history of the free world—I had never been in the D.C. armory, did not have time to put on a tuxedo, was the only 1 of 9 Presidential candidates who showed up, which was bizarre in the extreme, and still it raised over \$16 million, I got extremely strong, pleasant applause, I can take that—but the two standing ovations were for a dignified retired Army general of Jamaican heritage, Colin Powell, and another standing ovation for Billy Dale of the heretofore-mentioned travel office.

This man is a courageous man. Unfortunately for the other side, he has a big, handsome, open face; it reminds me of the great Irish-American actor, Pat O'Brien, a star of the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's, and Billy Dale has asked the people in the White House, including my pal Bill Bennett's brother, Bob—"Bill, control your brother, Bob," is what I would say, Mr. Speaker—Billy Dale has asked the occupants in the White House, and top, inside-the-beltway, high-powered, highly paid lawyer Bob Bennett, "Stop slaughtering my reputation. Mr. Clinton has apologized to me," to Billy Dale, "and wished me well in life. Stop having your hatchet men abuse my reputation and tear me up."

I am told by writers that, first, we may end up here yet with taxpayers' dollars paying the lawyer fees of all seven members of the travel office who had the FBI sicced on them within days of FBI director sessions being relieved of his job by the White House. I forgot, it was a few days after. It all surrounded the Vince Foster suicide, if it was that, all such a sleazy period. And when people call in when you are on a talk show or a radio show, in a townhall meeting, and say, Be careful, Congressperson, it sounds a little tabloid, what you are discussing here.

My response, thanks to my wife, Sally, is when the occupant of the White House has lived a tabloid life, how do you discuss it without sounding a little bit like a tabloid? That is the problem we have. Bullying, filthy Phil Donahue and all of this disgusting talking-head mess that you unleashed on this country when you are talking about witch-hunts and bullying and protecting certain occupants of the White House who were not elected, remember, to sic the FBI or the IRS, whether it is a Republican administration or a Democrat administration, to do that to any human being, taxpaying citizen of this country, or anybody, whether they pay taxes or not, that is flirting with fascism and police state tactics.

We know where the bullying has taken place. As I check my Clinton countdown watch, 284 days to change it.

STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE
LACKS FACTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, we heard in this Chamber just a few days ago the President of the United States give his State of the Union, and I think some of the things that he alluded to should be responded to. I am going to try to use as many facts as I can in my consideration of the State of the Union.

The President came before the Congress and he talked about how good the economy is and how things are going and how people felt good about economic data. I pulled up the economic data from the Joint Economic Committee, the last report that they had, and here is what they said:

Recent data shows the economy has slowed considerably. Manufacturing has contracted for 4 straight months, the lowest since 1991. Housing starts have fallen for 3 consecutive months. Both new orders for durable goods and leading economic indicators fell in October. Industrial production fell. New home sales fell.

This is the information that I have. In talking to the people of my district, too, during the recent recess and also around the country, I found that people are concerned about the future, that the major jobs that the President has talked about creating under this ad-

ministration are, one, low-paying jobs, part-time jobs, and service jobs, all again low-paying jobs.

I heard, I think it was Senator BRADLEY, talking about one of his constituents who said he heard the President talk about this and said that several years ago the husband and wife had two jobs. And he says, now we see where the job increase has resulted. Because now we have four jobs to keep the income level that, in fact, we had some years ago.

Then we heard the President talk about the 200,000-job cut in Federal employment. Folks, that is strictly smoke and mirrors. I chair the House Subcommittee on Civil Service. We looked at the cuts. The cuts are almost 95 percent in the civilian defense work force and relate primarily to base closures, civilian defense employees. The bulk of bureaucrats, the 350,000 that we have just within 50 miles of the U.S. Capitol are still well entrenched, and there have not been cuts in that core bureaucracy.

The President talked about values, and he led off with V-chips and regulating cigarettes, and maybe he forgot that there is already a turnoff switch. Then he got to welfare. Maybe he had his priorities mixed up, because I see the crime, I see the problems in our society; and the people I have talked to say that it is coming from the welfare system that we have created in 40 years of Democratic rule of this House. It has perpetuated the problems that we see. It is not just answered by a V-chip or regulating cigarettes.

Then I heard him talk about immigration, and he said, immigration, illegal immigration is down. Well, I had a press report where 1,000 Haitians left his success story to come to the United States and had to be brought back, where over 40 died at sea in the last couple of months.

Then he talked about tightening up immigration. Well, he has, in fact, begun to talk about tightening it up, but what we have done in fact is changed our policy so many times it has been the policy de jour, like the soup de jour. In fact, we have imported into my State of Florida over 20,000 Haitians and Cubans in the last year. They have been flying them in at 500 a clip.

So this is the policy that I see, a failure. No economic plan in Haiti. We have empowered one party who has really executed the opposition, and we have no hope. We have put the entire country on a Clinton-style economic welfare program.

Then we heard about EPA, and that really galls me, because I served on the committee that oversees EPA; and the real argument with EPA is some of the policy that they have and also the operations that they have.

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They have increased their number of employees from less than 12,000 about 10, 12 years ago, to now 18,000. They

have almost as many employees, 8,000 people in Washington today, just a few miles from here, as they had in the entire program a little over a decade ago.

So this is the kind of debate that we have.

I served on that committee. We had a report that EPA wasted a half a billion dollars in a management information system. They could not even tell us where any of this money was spent.

Then we heard the President talk about cleaning up hazardous waste sites. We spent 85 percent of our money for studies and attorney's fees. I submit that that is not the way to go.

U.S. CREDIT RATING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, what I want to try to do is, I am here this afternoon along with several of my colleagues to talk about an issue really of great importance of the United States, the people of the United States, and, that is, in effect, what is going to happen to the credit rating of the United States in the next several weeks, a very critical issue that is on the minds of folks here, not only on their minds but we are going to have to take some action with regard to the credit rating of the United States.

The situation, just to go back a little bit. Last month, Mr. Speaker, the House Republican leadership shut down the Federal Government in an effort, and in a well-described effort by themselves, to try to blackmail the President into signing their extreme agenda. Again by their own admittance, they failed to do that. But before they have indicated that they failed in that kind of a tactic, they shut the Government down twice.

They are now at it again. This is the best way that I can describe this. They are at it again. The crowd who brought us two Government shutdowns now is threatening to destroy the Nation's credit rating by defaulting on the debt.

If Speaker GINGRICH has his way, the world will be faced with a spectacle of the United States defaulting on the obligations that it has, its financial obligations, for the first time in the history of this country.

The Republican threats of Government default have sent unbelievable shock waves up and down Wall Street. In fact, and I know several of my colleagues are going to be more detailed about this, just yesterday Moody's Investors Service warned that it is considering lowering the U.S. credit rating because of the threat.

We all understand what a credit rating is about. We all have a credit rating. We all know that when we go to purchase something and we need to use credit, that is examined. And we know when we have a low credit rating what

that means in terms of our ability to purchase and to get by.

Anything that hurts that credit rating hurts our families deeply. So that playing politics with our economy is bad news for Wall Street and the world in terms of the United States, but it is disastrous for Main Street and disastrous for families in this country.

If the Government financially goes belly up, which is what we are talking about, interest rates go higher and higher. That means higher and higher mortgage payments, higher and higher car loan payments, and higher and higher credit card payments.

Sometimes people think that what happens here does not affect their lives. I talk to kids and students about this all of the time. What we do in this Chamber, how our votes are registered on this board, has a direct effect on the lives of every single American. And, my fellow Americans, understand the import of what happens when the credit rating of the United States is destroyed and what it means to your lives.

Mr. DOGGETT. Would the gentlewoman yield for a question there?

Ms. DELAURO. I would be happy to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. I have known people that have gotten a bad credit rating, they maybe have lost a job, gotten behind on their bills, or maybe they just borrowed too much.

Ms. DELAURO. Exactly.

Mr. DOGGETT. That stigma of a bad credit rating has stayed with their family and prevented them from borrowing, when they had necessities that they needed for their family, for years.

Does the gentlewoman have any idea of how long, if the Gingrich leadership forces a default for the first time in 220 years, how long it will affect the Nation to have its credit rating suddenly go below junk bonds and how much that will cost taxpayers for generations to come?

Ms. DELAURO. In terms of what happens, the United States will never get out of that hole. Our credit, our word that says we will pay our bills, will no longer be believed by the rest of the world.

I will say, and I think people can attest to this, that even if it is 15, 20 years ago, if there is a stigma on your credit rating, they look 15 years, 20 years back. That is what this is about.

The United States will never be able to say to the rest of the world, "We will make good on our credit and our financial obligations," because of what will be done in this House in the next several weeks.

I would be happy to yield to my colleague from California.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I think the gentlewoman makes an excellent point, and I think we all understand this from our own personal experience. If we go out to borrow money to furnish our living room and we default on our debt to the finance company or to

the retailer who sold us the furniture, a mark goes on our record. Our credit report at the credit bureau downtown is there for every other retailer to look at before they decide to extend us credit or not. It may be that they will not extend us any more credit.

Our failure to pay our bills will be a black mark that we will not be able to live down, and we will not be able to borrow again. Or, as I think in the analogous case with the Federal debt, we will have to pay far more the next time we borrow because we are a risk. We are somebody who is a deadbeat, we are somebody who does not really pay our bills.

As a result, when we want to go back to the retailer and borrow some more money, we are going to have to pay 3.5 or 4 or 5 percent more, and that is a huge increase in what we have to pay as a family in order to be able to attain the goods and services that we need.

It is very similar to what each of us in our own life have to deal with. If you default on your mortgage, the next time you want to buy a house, you may be unable to get a mortgage, or you will pay so much it might make it impossible for you to maintain the level of standard of living, the kind of home you have come to understand that you would like to live in.

So the consequences for this country are just like they would be for us as individuals if we become a deadbeat and fail to pay our bills.

Ms. DELAURO. I think you have said it very accurately.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. DELAURO. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. MILLER of California. I think we should also be aware of the fact that not only is it the actual default that could cause economic havoc, but the discussion of it and the anticipation of it. Millions of Americans have personal loans at the bank, credit card loans at the bank or their credit union, what have you, they have the mortgages on their home that are tied to indexing and to indexing averages that are tied to the interest rates on various indexes.

When you take the best credit rating in the world, which is the United States of America, it is what all other credit is rated according to. When that moves on a daily basis because of the uncertainty, because of the potential risk, whether we ever default or not, you have already cost homeowners, credit card borrowers, you have already cost them money because the average is higher than it would have otherwise been over the 30-, 60-, 90-day period of time. When they reconfigure your adjustable rate mortgage or your credit card or your home mortgage, it will be higher or not as low as it might have been when we see interest rates dropping as we have seen over the last couple of months.

So, bumping around that index, every day the Republicans threaten to impeach the Secretary of Treasury, they